



The Arlington Advocate

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CRIME IN ARLINGTON

Statistics	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Murder/manslaughter	0	0	1	0	0
Rape	4	3	3	2	4
Robbery	12	7	11	15	15
Aggravated assault	137	123	73	65	103
Burglary	249	175	169	127	98
Larceny	456	405	359	379	359
Vehicle theft	119	99	101	81	64

SOURCE: Arlington Police Dept.

Latest figures show drop in crime rate

By Patrick McGee
ADVOCATE STAFF

Aggravated assaults are up, but otherwise Arlington is increasingly becoming a safer community to live in, according to the latest crime statistics from the Arlington Police Department.

Serious crimes hardly seem to be a concern for Arlington residents as there were no homicides and four rapes reported in 1995, but aggravated assaults jumped from 65 in 1994 to 103 in 1995.

"We're seeing an increase here," police chief Eugene Del Gaizo said. "Some are a result of people's tempers that flair up after a motor vehicle accident and a good portion of them are domestic (violence)."

Burglaries and car thefts continued to drop. Burglaries dropped from 379 to 359.

"Out of the 359, about 70 to 75 of them were bicycle thefts last year," Del Gaizo said, referring to a spree of bicycle thefts in the summer that caused some residents to question the safety of Arlington.

Car thefts dropped from 81 in 1994 to 64 in 1995. Del Gaizo said part of the reason for the drop in car thefts is the increasing number

of car alarms.

He said larceny, which was 456 in 1991 and 359 in 1995, has been dropping since the 1980s, when it was more than 500 per year.

The Arlington Police Department compiles the so-called Part I crimes, or major crimes, for the FBI and for the annual town report.

There are seven Part I crimes. They are murder or manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and vehicle theft. Adding up Arlington's Part I crimes shows that crime has been dropping over the last five years. There were 977 total Part I crimes in 1991; 812 in 1992; 717 in 1993; 669 in 1994 and 643 in 1995.

Lexington police reported 469 Part I crimes for 1995. Police officials at other towns that border Arlington said they did not have their figures compiled yet.

Dan Bible of the Massachusetts State Police Crime Statistics Collection Unit supplied 1992 statistics for the average town with a population between 25,000 and 50,000. Although the statistics are from different years, a comparison of the figures to Arlington's 1995 crimes shows that Arlington is safe.

CRIME, see page 4A.

Schools' request set at \$23.5 million

Committee also hears tentative plans for school move, but no action taken

By Liz Buchanan
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

The School Committee Tuesday night approved a \$23.5 million budget proposal for next year and mulled proposals for alleviating elementary school overcrowding.

The committee also spent more than an hour questioning Ronald Fitzgerald, Superintendent of the Minuteman Science-Technology High School, on the high cost of the regional program, which is more than double the per-pupil expenditure in Arlington's local schools.

Fitzgerald told the committee that Minuteman educates more

than 170 Arlington students, the largest number of any participating community, at an assessment of \$12,176 per pupil. The average per pupil expenditure locally is about \$6,000.

The amount Arlington must pay Minuteman is determined by a state formula, which the technical school's administration then uses to come up with a yearly assessment which Arlington is required to pay.

Fitzgerald said the cost of Minuteman for Arlington is "absolutely" reasonable. The higher per pupil cost, he said, is due to a lower faculty/student ratio and the high

cost of running technical equipment, among other factors.

However, several committee members were skeptical.

"Look at it from our perspective," said committee member Martin Thrope. "The feeling is that the cost is out of control. We're given a number and that's it."

Thrope said that while local school programs are "pushed against the wall" for funds, the feeling is that Minuteman is not hurting for money.

Fitzgerald responded that Minuteman has also faced its share of financial hardships, and that the

Minuteman program provides many benefits to the Arlington community in return for its expenditures for the program.

Committee members also expressed concern that Arlington may be shouldering some of the cost for out-of-district students, as well as for post-graduate students who benefit from the technical curriculum.

The committee did not reach any conclusions in the Minuteman discussion, but several members expressed a strong desire to revisit the issue soon.

SCHOOLS, see page 5A.



Lisa Welter discusses the history of a Victorian crazy quilt made by Julia Fillebrown of Arlington in 1870. The quilt is part of "Quilted Reflections," an exhibit at the Jason Russell House.

ADVOCATE PHOTOS BY DENNIS STEIN

Stitches In Time

Arlington's quilts tell a patchwork history of the town

By Robin Robinson
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

The Arlington Historical Society is presenting a collection of more than 18 quilts at the newly renovated Smith Museum in the Jason Russell House. The exhibit, covering more than 200 hundred years of quilt making and history will be on display until June.

According to volunteer exhibit-curator Lisa Welter, the display gives people a chance to gain a new appreciation and knowledge for the art of quilt making. There are examples of whole cloth quilts, piece quilts, crazy quilts, kit quilts, doll quilts and

wall quilts.

"Even people who know a lot about quilts will have something to learn here," she said.

For example, many people think that Colonial women originated the art of quilt making. However, they were too busy with such tasks as growing food, preparing meals and making candles.

"They had no time for fussy work," said Welter.

Quilts from that period, referred to as "whole cloth" quilts, were made of wool or linsey-woolsey with a simple, plain design of only two or three large pieces. There is an example of this type of quilt from 1781 on display.

Welter, a 12-year member of Quilters Con-

nection of Arlington, said that quilts became complex and ornate in the late 1800s, during the Victorian period. Affluent women, or "women of leisure," created elaborate piece quilts for the purpose of showing off fine fabrics and stitching. The quilts were generally not made for practical use. The quilts were a way for the ladies to show they had the money to buy silk, taffeta, lace and velvet, and the time to sew the quilts by using elaborate embroidered stitches. There is a colorful Victorian crazy quilt on display that was made by Julia Fillebrown of Arlington in 1870.

Welter said that historians and critics thought that particular divergence wasn't a good one. "They felt it brought down the art

QUILTS, see page 4A.

Snow emergency plan ready for a road test

By Patrick McGee
ADVOCATE STAFF

With hardly any snow on the ground and several major storms behind us, town officials have implemented a snow emergency procedure that would ban parking on all Arlington streets.

The Board of Selectmen approved the new bylaw at their meeting on Jan. 23.

Town Manager Donald Marquis will have the authority to declare a snow emergency which will immediately put a 24 hour parking ban into effect.

"During the last month I have traveled around the town during these snow storms and I have had a lot of town employees ask me why it is that Arlington does not have a snow emergency by-law that would allow us to clear the streets in the day time," Marquis told selectmen speaking in favor of the bylaw.

Marquis and director of Public

Works Joe Loyacano said police will patrol the streets, pulling up near parked cars and announce on megaphones that there is a snow emergency in effect and the cars must be moved off the street.

"A lot of it is standard stuff that we do anyway," said police chief Eugene Del Gaizo. "We already have the authority to tow vehicles that are impeding snow removal."

The police dispatcher will notify the three area television stations and numerous radio stations about the snow emergency and the horn at fire headquarters on Massachusetts Avenue will be sounded to notify near-by residents.

"Part of this is going to be better communications to the citizen," said Selectman Kevin Greeley after he read the proposal.

"The big thing with this is the Town Manager's declaration of a snow emergency and the notification of the public," Del Gaizo said.

SNOW, see page 6A.

Interest in Town Meeting's open seats is low

By Patrick McGee
ADVOCATE STAFF

With only eight days left to take out papers, 39 Town Meeting seats have no candidates, according to information from Town Clerk Corinne Rainville.

She said residents have until Feb. 9 to take out nomination papers at Town Hall to become a Town Meeting member. The nomination papers must be returned with 10 signatures by Feb. 12.

People interested in becoming a Town Meeting member can only

run for a seat in the precinct they live in and they must be a registered voter in the town of Arlington.

There are 21 precincts in Arlington. Residents can find out what precinct they live in by calling Town Hall.

In all, 95 Town Meeting seats are up for election this year. As of Wednesday morning, 59 candidates had submitted election papers.

Rainville said she is not alarmed by the open seats.

"At the last minute, people do

get them in," she said.

Town Moderator John Worden, who presides over the Town Meeting, was surprised to hear that 40 seats have no candidates.

"Oh my goodness!" he said. "Obviously I think that's very unfortunate, really appalling that more people haven't turned out."

"Certainly a reminder would be in order that they have to get that stuff in," he said, referring to Town Meeting members who are up for re-election.

Rainville said letters have been mailed to Town Meeting members

who are up for re-election to remind them that it's time to take out their papers.

"We've gotten a few (returns). I expect a few more," Rainville said.

Carma Forgie, the voter service chair of the League of Women Voters in Arlington, said she'd like to see more people take out papers to run for Town Meeting.

"We'd like to encourage other citizens to run too and we'd definitely like competition for the seats if possible, but certainly we

ELECTIONS, see page 6A.

RECYCLING ROUTE

NEXT WEEK



NEWS/OPINION

■ **LIVE BIRD:** Arlington saxophonist and playwright Jeff Robinson's musical play on the life of jazz great Charlie Parker is running at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston this month. See page 7B for the story.

SPORTS

■ **HOCKEY:** The Spy Ponders won two games to improve their overall record to 10-1-1. Arling-

ton Catholic beat Austin Prep, but lost to the strong New Hampshire team. Please turn to the B-Section for these stories and other sports activities.

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TOWN HALL ROUNDUP

Finance Committee makes appointments

The Arlington Finance Committee, the town's chief budgeting body, announced the appointment of a new member and the reappointment of six members.

Chairman Allan Tosti said Stephen W. DeCoursey, of Cheswick Road, was appointed to represent Precinct 2. He succeeds long-term member MacKay Fraser who retired. DeCoursey is an attorney and Certified Public Accountant.

He holds degrees from Boston University and Suffolk University Law School.

Reappointed to three-year terms were Vice Chairman Charles T. Foskett, Peter Villandry, George Kocur, John Deyst, Daniel Grabauskas and Mary I. Ronan.

The Finance Committee is authorized to have 21 members, one representative from each precinct. Precincts six and nine remain unrepresented because of lack of interest.

Human rights group has one opening

The School Committee is seeking interested persons to be considered for an appointment to the Human Rights Commission. There is presently one opening for a three-year term.

The Commission, established in 1993, works to increase diversity, as well as awareness and sensitivity to human and civil rights issues. It responds to complaints by people in the Town who believe their civil rights have been violated, and initiates investigations into circumstances which appear to be the result of unlawful discrimination against any person in town.

Contact the School Committee office in writing by Feb. 15 and include some information about yourself and why you would like to serve on the Human Rights Commission.

Town elections scheduled for March

Town elections will be held on Saturday, March 30. At that time Arlington will be hiring help for the next year. Up for election are 84 town meeting seats for three years, plus others for a year or two because of vacancies which may have occurred. Also up for election are the town clerk, treasurer, one assessor, two selectman, and three school committee positions.

Deadline for picking up nomination papers is Feb. 9. Papers must

be given to the Registrar of Voters by Feb. 12.

For more information, call the town clerk's office at 646-1000, Ext. 4054 or the League of Women Voters at 646-4667 or 643-7622.

Recycling notice

New telephone directories are being delivered in all areas of Arlington. Place old directories in recycling container with other recyclables.

Democratic Town Committee meeting

The Arlington Democratic Town Committee will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Safety Building, 112 Mystic St.

All Democratic voters are welcome to the meeting in the O'Neill meeting on the second floor of the Community Safety Building.

For further information contact committee chair Pat Deal at 646-7133.

Meetings

Thursday, Feb. 1

Permanent Town Building Committee, 7:30 p.m., media center, Ottoson Middle School, 63 Acton St.

Thursday, Feb. 1

Conservation Commission, 8 p.m., second floor conference room, Town Hall Annex

Friday, Feb. 2

Thompson School Council, 3 p.m.,

Thompson School Council, 60 N. Union St.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

Open Space Plan Committee, 7:30 p.m., first floor conference room, Town Hall Annex

Tuesday, Feb. 6

Park and Recreation Committee, 7:30 p.m., second floor conference room, Town Hall Annex

Tuesday, Feb. 6

Arlington Historical Commission, 7:30 p.m., John Jarvis House, 1 Whittemore Park

Hour-long outage hits East Arlington

Approximately 2,000 Boston Edison customers — including many businesses on Massachusetts Avenue — lost power for an hour Saturday afternoon.

The outage occurred when a high voltage line failed at Boston

Edison's Woburn station, said spokeswoman Priscilla Korell. An automatic switch in East Arlington that should have activated an alternate feeder line did not activate, causing the outage at 4:25 p.m.

A crew was sent to manually activate the switch, a procedure that was completed at 5:25 p.m., Korell said.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON

FIRE REPORT

RESPONSES

Rescue and Fire services responded to 87 calls last week, including 29 rescues, 26 investigations and 14 fire alarms.

■ On Jan. 22 at 9:04 a.m., a 53-year-old woman was reported to have slipped on the ice on Massachusetts Avenue and Appleton Street. She is believed to have fractured her ankle. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 22 at 7:23 p.m., an 82-year-old man on Parker Street was reported to be suffering from vom-

iting and flu-like symptoms. He was taken to Mount Auburn Hospital.

■ On Jan. 23 at 1:09 a.m., a 94-year-old woman was reported to be suffering from chest pains on Sunnyside Avenue. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 23 at 7:30 a.m., a 68-year-old woman on Dothan Street was reported to be having difficulty breathing. She was given oxygen and taken to Lahey Clinic.

■ On Jan. 23 at 4:51 p.m., an 88-year-old woman was found on the floor on Lake Street. She was unable to move and had pain in her hip. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 24 at 6:06 a.m., a 66-year-old woman on Wright Street was reported to be suffering from shortness of breath and chest

pains. She was given oxygen and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 24 at 9:26 a.m., a 40-year-old mm on a street corner. They believed he fell. He was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 25 at 12:08 a.m., a 73-year-old woman was reported to be suffering from shortness of breath. She was given oxygen and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 25 at 8:23 a.m., a fire was reported in the teachers' bathroom at Arlington High School. The fire started in the trash can and spread to the paper towel dispenser. Paper towels were hanging from the dispenser into the trash can. The fire was quickly put out but caused extensive smoke damage to the tiles and ceiling. The cause is suspicious.

■ On Jan. 25 at 9:19 a.m., an 80-year-old woman was reported to have fallen on Lowell Street. She had a bloody nose and was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 26 at 4:48 p.m., a fire was reported at an auto shop on Lowell Street. Heavy smoke was coming from the roof when firefighters arrived and employees were trying to extinguish the fire with fire extinguishers and a garden hose. Firefighters took over and put out the fire with one hose. The fire was caused by a short circuit and caused \$7500 worth of damage.

■ On Jan. 26 at 5:56 p.m., on the way back from the auto shop firefighters came upon a truck fire on Park Avenue. Firefighters quickly put out the engine fire using about

50 gallons of water.

■ On Jan. 27 at 9:07 a.m., a 34-year-old female bus driver on Dow Avenue reported having pain in her lower back and leg after hitting a pot hole. She was placed in a cervical collar and taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 28 at 4:04 a.m., a 40-year-old man was reported to have pain in his ankle after jumping down the stairs at Arlington Catholic High School. He was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

■ On Jan. 28 at a 56-year-old woman was reported to have slipped on the ice and injured her shoulder at Johnnie's Foodmaster on Massachusetts Avenue. She was taken to the Medical Center at Symmes.

POLICE LOG

ARRESTS

■ On Jan. 24 at 7 p.m., a police officer spotted a man at the corner of Victoria Road and Mystic Street who is known to have warrants out for his arrest. The 24-year-old Arlington man was arrested for breaking and entering, larceny over \$250, negligent driving and speeding.

■ On Jan. 27 at noon, police were called to Allen Street for a report of a man violating a restraining order. The 52-year-old Arlington man said his lawyer said he could come to the house to gather his belongings. He was arrested for violation of a restraining order.

■ On Jan. 29 at 12:45 a.m., police went to Viking Court for a report of

a fight between a boyfriend and girlfriend. The boyfriend was drunk and the girlfriend kicked him. The 46-year-old man was put in protective custody and the 29-year-old woman was arrested for assault and battery.

■ On Jan. 29 at 7:15 a.m., a 28-year-old man came into the police station with a bruised and bleeding face. He said his roommate accused him of stealing his money and got into an argument with him.

He said the argument escalated to an exchange of punches and kicks and his roommate kicked him in the face with his boots on. Police went to the apartment on Pine Street and arrested the 28-year-old roommate for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

THEFT AND VANDALISM

■ On Jan. 24 a gold ring was re-

ported stolen on Massachusetts Avenue.

■ On Jan. 25 a hatch-back window was reported to have been smashed on a car parked on Madison Avenue.

■ On Jan. 27 at 10 a.m., a car on Silk Street was reported to have been broken into. A cellular phone, pair of sunglasses and gym bag were stolen.

■ On Jan. 28 at 8 a.m., a car parked on Mystic Street was reported to have been broken into. A cellular phone, a pair of sunglasses and several items of clothing were stolen.

■ On Jan. 29 at 1:45 p.m., an 83-year-old Candia Street resident reported that a man came to her house and asked to use her phone and bathroom. After he left she noticed that her purse was missing from her wallet. The thief tried to use one of her credit cards at Jordan Marsh a short time after he left.

CLUB NEWS

Zonta Club holds its monthly meeting

The Zonta Club of Arlington holds its monthly meeting on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 6:30 p.m., at the Winchester Country Club. The guest speaker is scheduled to be Nora Ann Frank, director of development and marketing at the Germaine Lawrence School in Arlington. Frank will be speaking to the members and guests about the involvement of the Arlington com-

munity with Germaine Lawrence. For more information about attending this meeting or the Zonta Club of Arlington call Pat Doyle at 646-6259.

Retired Men's Club winter activities

The Retired Men's Club of Arlington has scheduled the following activities:

Feb. 11 — Valentine dinner dance: Dinner at 4:30 p.m. and dancing from 5 to 9 p.m. The menu: boneless breast of chicken stuffed with rice, string beans, whipped cream, soup, macaroni with meat sauce, rolls, coffee, tea. The donation \$20 per person. For more information call Glenn at 776-8501.

Feb. 22 — Foxwood Casino: Depart 7:30 a.m. and return 9 p.m. The pick up point at St. Camillus. Tour includes full buffet, round trip transportation. For more information call Jim Aloso at 648-6624.

March 16 — Spring dinner dance: Dinner served 7 p.m. Dancing from 8 p.m. to midnight. Music by the swingers. The menu includes: antipasto, ziti, roast beef/turkey, roast potatoes, green beans, ice cream, coffee, rolls. Tickets are \$35 per couple. For more information call Jim Aloso at 648-6624.

May 23 — Lunch and entertainment: Entertainment, Julius La Rosa. Round trip transportation. Bus departs St. Camillus parking lot at 11 a.m. Returns about 4:30 p.m. Complete price per person \$39. For more information call John Sacca at 396-0261.

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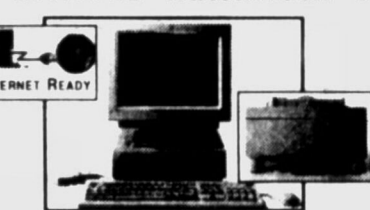


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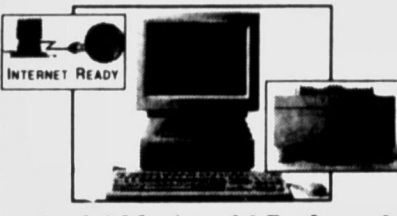


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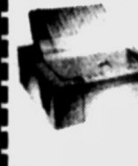
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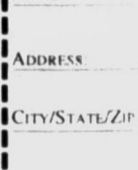
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INSIDE ARLINGTON

Arlington's quilts tell history of town

QUILTS, from page 1A.

of quilt making," said Welter. Another divergence that was looked down upon was the kit quilt in the early 1900s. Quilts were mass produced and packaged, presumably for women who were too busy to make their own. The kit contained a one piece quilt top, a design that was appliqued or embroidered on the top, and all other items needed to make a quilt. People criticize the kit quilts for losing the originality in quilt making. This was an important time in history for women, because it introduced the cottage industry. Women were able to make money while at home by selling their quilt patterns and tops.

Today, more women are making wall quilts — fancy quilts are designed to hang on the wall as works of art. Women now use modern technology, like computer programs to create elaborate quilt designs and computerized sewing machines that can be programmed to produce 30 different stitches. "Although there are men quilt-

ers, quilting has always been a woman's art," said Welter. "It was the one thing they could excel in and be accepted for. At fairs, for instance, they could win prizes and be important."

Quilting bees gave women the opportunity to socialize. Young girls learned social graces as well as how to sew at the events.

Sewing circles are now called guilds, and are still a way for women to show their creativity. Some "guilders" teach the craft internationally and can sell their quilts for \$5,000 or more.

"Quilts are an 'in' craft," said Quilters Connection member Donna Lambrechts. She credits the revival of quilting to the many different books on the subject which help create an awareness of the history. "There is so much written now about it. Plus, it's relaxing. It's nice to sit down at the end of the day and quilt. You sew your stress away."

Many states have historical quilts registered and have books

relating the state's quilting history. "There are only three or four states which haven't done a quilt project, and Massachusetts is one of them," Lambrechts said. It's important to have the history documented because you can determine a lot about a certain period or region by how a quilt is made.

"And you can tell what region a quilt is from by the way it's made," added Lambrechts. For example, most quilts made in New England have cut out corners on the bottom so they will fit the four poster beds popular in the area.

"Quilts are also a good way to learn about the textile industry," said Welter. "For example, historians had dated a piece of paper used for the backing had that date on it. After a research of the fabric was done, it was discovered that the fabric used was made a good 100 years later. Paper was so scarce that someone had saved a letter or something with that date on it for 100 years."

Several quilts on display are pieces of Arlington history. There is a quilt from the Robbins family. It is a silk and taffeta "broken dishes" design piece quilt that Mrs. Orrin Robbins (Hannah Reeves) made for her mother-in-law Mrs. Nathan Robbins. There is a signature quilt from the Rosco Perry family. In 1932, the quilt was used as a fund raiser. Arlington residents were charged 10 cents a signature. The quilt raised \$56. Some of the family names on the quilt are Parmenter, Winn, Russell, Warren, Peirce, Perry and Cutter, to name a few.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to see the quilts as a group. They do little good stuffed in their boxes. We don't have a large collection, but it is representative of everyone's interest, from the very beginning to modern times," said Welter.

The exhibit is open Tuesday through Saturday, 2 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$2 for adults, 50 cents for children.

Major crime in Arlington is down

CRIME, from page 1A.

er than the average Commonwealth municipality.

The average municipality of Arlington's size had 30 rapes per 100,000 people, while Arlington's per 100,000 rate was 9 rapes. Other annual rates per 100,000 were:

■ Robbery — Average municipi-

pality's rate was 60, Arlington's was 34.

■ Aggravated assault — Average was 440, Arlington's was 234.

■ Burglaries — Average was 890, Arlington's was 223.

■ Larcenies — Average was 1,520, Arlington's was 816.

■ Car thefts — Average was 620,

Arlington's was 145.

"Crime is going down not only throughout the United States, but also right here in Arlington," said Town Manager Donald Marquis. He said no special meeting or actions are planned with the police department because the crime figures are declining.

Foster parent info

There will be an informational meeting for individuals interested in becoming foster parents on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The Waltham office covers the towns of Waltham, Watertown, Belmont, Wellesley, Newton, Needham, Weston, Lexington, and Arlington. For more information call 894-8770.

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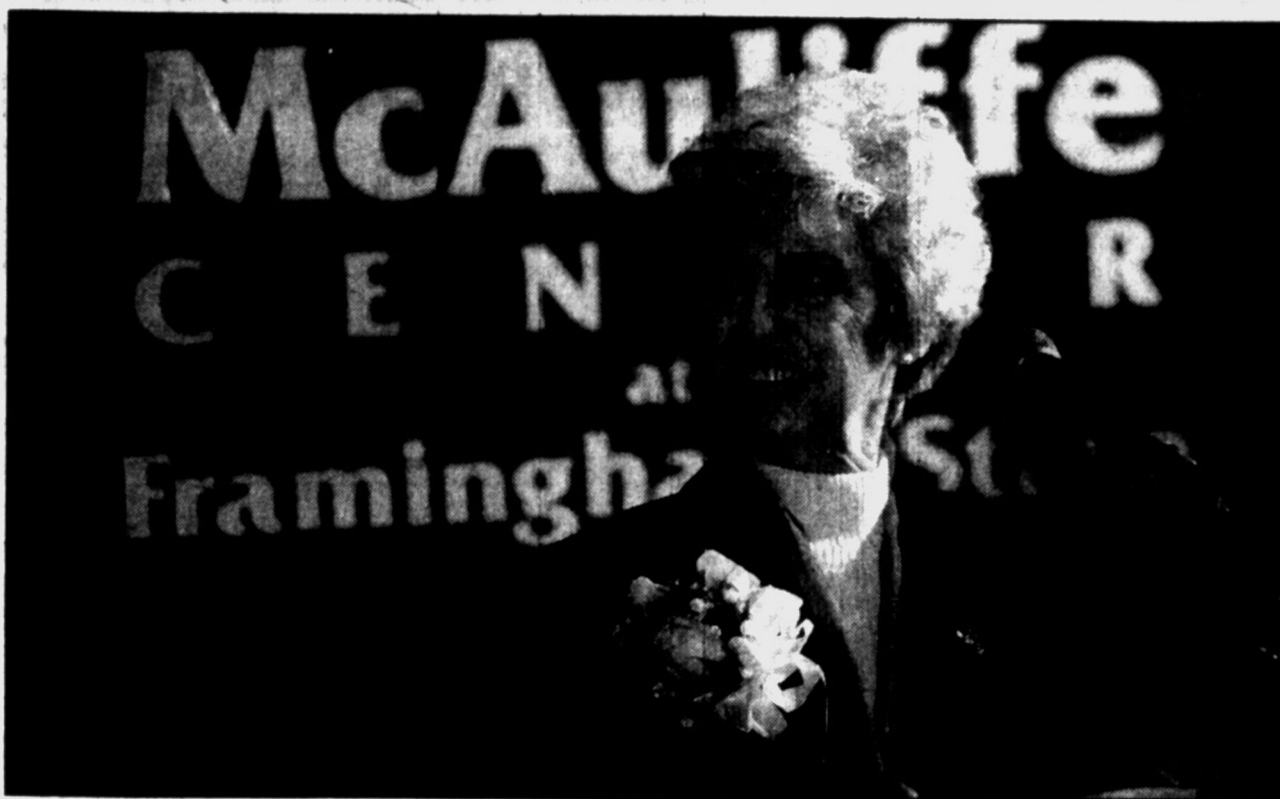
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INSIDE ARLINGTON



Grace Corrigan, mother of the late teacher-astronaut Christa McAuliffe, speaks during a Statehouse ceremony honoring excellent teachers.

Statehouse ceremony honors McAuliffe

Teachers won awards and applause at a Statehouse ceremony held in the name of teacher-astronaut Christa McAuliffe. But McAuliffe's mother, Grace Corrigan, got the standing ovation.

Former Framingham State President Paul Weller presented Corrigan with a medallion given to special teachers for her work promoting her daughter's enthusiasm for education.

"Grace has been able to teach us more about how to get through

these kinds of situations and also how to elevate the really important things in life," Weller said.

Last week's ceremony was the official kick-off of an exhibit set up at the Statehouse honoring McAuliffe 10 years after her death aboard the space shuttle Challenger.

More than a dozen state legislators and television reporters made speeches and presented awards to exceptional teachers, some of whom they had in class years ago.

Middlesex News Publisher Asa Cole also accepted an award for Community Newspapers Company, which promoted the "Teachers Honor Roll" program.

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Committee hears plan for movement of classes

SCHOOLS, from page 1A.

On the issue of school overcrowding, Superintendent Kathleen Donovan presented tentative plans for changes next year at the Brackett, Bishop and Stratton elementary schools.

The most dramatic of the proposed changes would be a movement of two sixth grade classes out of Bishop and into Stratton, forming a four-class "cluster" of sixth grades.

Donovan portrayed the change as a positive one, in which students would have opportunities to broaden their curriculum, increase hands-on learning, and get to know more of their peer group before beginning middle school the following year.

The committee did not take a vote on the proposal, which still needs to go before Stratton parents at a meeting next Tuesday, Feb. 6. A final vote may be taken on Feb. 13, or later in the month if more time to discuss the issue is needed, said Chairman Michael Healy.

The Stratton community is likely to face a number of changes next year, including the opening of a pre-school in the facility, the addition of sixth graders, and the possible move of a small special education class now housed in Arlington High School.

The high school also faces its own overcrowding problems next year, with the relocation of Otton Junior High School students there during next year's renovation of the Otton building.

AHS principal Charles McCarthy estimated at a meeting Monday evening, on issues relating to the move, that during the busiest times 99 out of 100 high school classrooms might be filled.

Donovan is proposing that one seven-student classroom of the Behavior Intervention Program (BIP) now in the high school be moved to Stratton.

Stratton Principal Bernard Walsh said that his school has the space to accommodate up to seven new classrooms, and that plans are under way to make all the "target audiences" aware of the impact of the changes.

Walsh said that both Bishop and Stratton have very talented faculties and enthusiastic parents. "This is going to work," he promised.

For Bishop, the move of sixth graders will free up two classrooms, which will mean that two classes now sharing the school's auditorium can return to regular classrooms. However, if the school has three kindergarten classes next year, one of them may need to use the auditorium space for half a day, Donovan said.


Brackett School, which also has been a subject of the overcrowding discussions, is likely to keep close to the status quo for next year, according to Donovan.

Donovan had proposed earlier that Brackett sixth grades might be moved into the "cluster" along with the Bishop students, but Brackett parents expressed strong reservations about such a move.

Donovan said the two sixth grade classes at Brackett next year may have as many as 28 or 29 students, but the teachers have agreed that with a full-time teaching assistant, the situation will be manageable. Donovan said that a combined fourth and fifth-grade class is also a possible option at Brackett next year.


Brackett's popular after school child care program will also remain at Brackett under the proposed plans, Donovan said.

The Committee Tuesday also concluded its discussion of the proposed School Budget for 1996-97 of \$23,589,017, a 5.32 percent increase over the present budget. The budget will also face consideration by the Town's Finance Committee and later by Town Meeting.



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UNJUSTIFIABLE

It is sometimes said that doctors make the worst patients, and now it seems that lawyers may be counted among those who fail to take their own professional advice. Chief among those in this latter category is none other than Warren Burger. When the former chief justice died in June of 1995, he left an estate valued at \$1.8 million. And, according to an article published in Arlington County Bar Association Journal, Mr. Burger also left behind a "woefully inadequate" will. It seems that he prepared a will hastily in the aftermath of his wife's death in 1994 that failed to grant the executors permission to dispose of his property. This lack of planning which will needlessly cost his heirs a considerable amount of money points out the need for professional attention to estate planning, no matter who you are.

Changes occur daily in everyone's lives, some more significant than others. The more pivotal lifestyle changes, such as additional offspring, property acquisition and the like usually require alterations of an existing will. We would be happy to discuss your current situation, review your existing will, and prepare a new version if necessary, based on your immediate needs. We are a full service law firm, covering a wide range of legal needs. If you would like more information about our services, please call us to schedule an informative consultation. Our office is conveniently located here in Arlington, and our hours are by appointment.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON

ABOUT ARLINGTON PEOPLE



Local professional women join RESPOND

Three Arlington residents have been elected to the board of directors of RESPOND Inc., an agency and shelter for battered women and their children. Attorney Marianne Abely, poet Marilyn Zuckerman and violence-prevention specialist Robin Chase join the Somerville agency that also provides a 24-hour hotline, individual and group counseling, legal advocacy, services for children and housing support.

"In other words, we're more than a shelter," says Kate Cloud, executive director of the agency. "We help women rebuild their lives. That's why it's so important to have committed and creative women like Abely, Zuckerman and Chase to help direct the agency," says Cloud.

The three Arlington residents join a dedicated staff and 25 volunteers who not only provide services to women and children, but also reach out to the community with educational and awareness activities to help make the world a safer place.

Picardi joins law firm

John Picardi of Arlington joins law firm of Cushing & Dolan, P.C. Picardi was born and raised the first 21 years of his life in Arlington. He attended all Arlington public schools. His parents Ralph and Edna Picardi still reside in Arlington on Crosby Street.

Before joining Cushing & Dolan he was a partner of Burns & Levinson will manage their newly established full service commercial litigation and professional practices department. This new department will complement our growing estate planning, business succession, probate and real estate sections. Picardi will concentrate on disputes concerning tax litigation, minority stockholders and partners, intellectual property, trade secrets and confidentiality, noncompete agreements, antitrust and construction as well as professional liability defense of accountants and other professionals. Picardi formerly practiced as a certified public accountant.

BUSINESS NOTES

Reardon named new mortgage consultant

Deborah L. Reardon has been named mortgage consultant at the

Worburn office of First NH Mortgage Corp. In her new position, she will be responsible for originating mortgages in the towns of Arlington, Belmont, Lexington, Medford, Waltham, and Winchester.

Prior to joining First NH Mortgage Corp., Reardon was a manager and certified public accountant at BDO Seidman in Boston. She has also served as a certified public accountant at Vitale, Caturano and Co. in Boston.

Reardon earned a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

Cavicchi promoted to general manager

Boston Gas Company announced Robert J. Cavicchi has been promoted to general manager of the company's Malden division.

Cavicchi is responsible for overseeing construction, maintenance, and distribution of gas lines in the following cities and towns located within the Malden division: Burlington, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Reading, Stoneham, Winchester and Woburn.

As part of a reorganization undertaken by the company to better meet customer needs in the service of heating equipment, marketing, and installing of gas lines, Boston Gas has restructured and localized its operations to better service customer needs ranging

from customer relations to marketing, supply and engineering.

Cavicchi is a native of Arlington and attended Arlington High School and Boston University. He has been employed by Boston Gas since 1977.

Local DeWolfe takes part in convention

The Arlington office of DeWolfe New England recently celebrated its ongoing success at DeWolfe New England's fourth annual convention held at the Sheraton Boston Hotel and Towers. Appropriately entitled "A Different Company for a Different Time," this year's convention attracted more than 1,100 participants and entailed three general sessions, 28 educational seminars, more than 50 vendor exhibits, and 30 exciting giveaways including a laptop computer, airline tickets, weekend getaways, and spa treatments.

Dick DeWolfe, CEO of The DeWolfe Companies, offered a rousing welcome to attendees. The company leader went on to highlight the differences that have made DeWolfe New England the region's leading residential real estate firm as reported in two national trade magazine surveys in 1995; and to reveal some of the company's projected 1996 initiatives. DeWolfe also announced that DeWolfe New England and the New England Home for Little Wanderers have formed an ongoing partnership that will benefit area children.

The DeWolfe New England Arlington office is located at 635 Massachusetts Ave.

39 seats, no candidates

ELECTIONS, from page 1A. want all the vacant seats filled," she said.

The following is a list of precinct seats that currently have no candidates:

- Precinct 1 - six seats
- Precinct 2 - two seats
- Precinct 3 - two seats
- Precinct 4 - three seats
- Precinct 5 - four seats

- Precinct 6 - two seats
- Precinct 7 - two seats
- Precinct 11 - three seats
- Precinct 13 - one seat
- Precinct 14 - five seats
- Precinct 15 - two seats
- Precinct 16 - two seats
- Precinct 17 - one seat
- Precinct 19 - two seats
- Precinct 20 - two seats
- Precinct 21 - one seat

Snow emergency plan is approved by board

SNOW, from page 1A.

"There's no cookbook storm that's going to trigger an emergency," Loyacano said explaining that the guidelines were flexible enabling town officials to consider several factors, such as the amount of snow already on the ground and time of the storm.

"We will not abuse the use of emergency procedures," he said.

During the heavy snow storms in January, Public Works employees from Loyacano down to the main driving the plows said they were hampered by cars on the street and by residents plowing snow into the street.

"We have to get on these people who always plow snow back into the streets," Marquis said. The new snow emergency bylaw is expected to bring increased enforcement of other snow-related town laws. For example, residents are responsible for shoveling the sidewalk in front of their home and are prohibited from shoveling snow

blowing or plowing snow into the streets.

Police are not expected to ticket cars left on the street but to inform people that they must move their cars.

During the snow emergency, residents will be encouraged to use the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority buses and to shovel out the fire hydrants and storm drains near their homes.

Loyacano said the town's first attempt at a snow emergency will be a "learning experience," but he pointed out that Public Works was able to effectively ban parking on Massachusetts Avenue when it paved the street in 1994.

According to the new bylaw, the town manager will be briefed by the director of Public Works on weather forecasts. But Marquis, said he is usually up-to-date on the weather following the forecasts on channels, 4, 5, 7 and the Weather Channel. He said he's also kept informed by his two sons who are both meteorologists.

Pain may be eliminated for millions

(SPECIAL) A new drug has been approved that is exciting researchers in the treatment of pain. This material has been formulated into a new product known as "Arthur Itistm" and is being called a "Medical Miracle" by some, in the treatment of debilitating conditions such as arthritis,

bursitis, rheumatism, painful muscle aches, joint aches, simple backache, bruises and more. Although the mechanism of action is unclear, experiments indicate that "Arthur Itistm" relieves pain by first selectively attracting and then destroying the messenger chemical which carries pain sensations to

the brain, thus eliminating pain in the affected area. "Arthur Itistm" is an odorless, greaseless, non-staining cream, and is available immediately without a prescription and is guaranteed to work.

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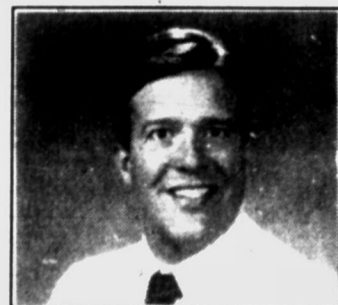
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Claire Savas



John Montanaro



Rita Saia



Noreen Coye

INSIDE ARLINGTON



During a recent visit to Japan, members of the Arlington-Nagaokakyo Sister City Association did some sightseeing in Kyoto. Pictured in front of the Golden Temple are, from left, Ann Smith, Dick Smith, Janet Pagliuca, and Ann Pagliuca.

SISTER CITY NEWS

Participation in Nagaokakyo Festival

In November, a delegation of four from Arlington traveled to Japan to participate in Nagaokakyo's Garasha Festival. The festival honors a woman who played a significant role in Japanese history.

The delegation included Ann Pagliuca, Janet Pagliuca, Ann Smith, and Richard Smith. Richard Smith is president of the Arlington-Nagaokakyo Sister City Association. The group spent a week in Nagaokakyo, and participated in a parade which was the highlight of the festival. People from other sister cities of Nagaokakyo also participated.

Ann Smith was dressed as Betsy Ross, who designed the first American flag. Richard Smith was dressed as Uncle Sam, the symbolic character who represents the United States, and who is based on real-life Samuel Wilson, who was born in Arlington. Ann and Janet Pagliuca were dressed in American colonial costumes.

The group also spent four days in the ancient capital of Nara. Nara was the first permanent capital of Japan, from 710-784 A.D. Nagaokakyo was then the capital for a short ten-year period. 784-794, after which the capital was moved a short distance to what is now Kyoto.

Host families sought for march visit

In late March, a group of junior high school students and several adults will be coming to Arlington for a short visit, arriving the evening of March 25 and departing the morning of March 28. Host families are being sought. Since most of the time when the group will be here will be taken up with visits to sites in Arlington and Boston, host families will not be required to make comprehensive plans.

A party will be held one of their three nights; host families will be invited. There will be an orientation evening for host families at a mutually convenient time about one week before the delegation arrives.

Any family willing to host a member of the group or desiring more information about what will be involved in hosting should call Janet Pagliuca at 646-5209.

Visit to Japan

The sister city organization is planning to send another delegation to Japan. Since the activities of Arlington Youth Visit Exchange Program Inc., which operated an exchange program with Japan for more than 20 years, have ceased, this will provide another opportunity for Arlington residents to visit that country under a unique program.

Nagaokakyo has already agreed to host a group for approximately one week, and Nara has also agreed to host the group. Depending on the schedules of interested persons, other stops can be included.

Word has been received from the Hokkaido-Massachusetts Society that Hokkaido is willing to host the group.

Nagaokakyo has a sister city Ningbo in the People's Republic of China. In past years, Ningbo has prepared a three- or four-city tour for Arlington delegations lasting about eight days.

No date has been set for the trip, awaiting information about the schedules of possible participants. Possibilities are summer, perhaps beginning early or mid-July; or November, when the weather is milder and the foliage is dazzling. If the trip takes place in November, the members will be able to take part in the Garasha Festival.

Once the group is formed, the members will be provided with a comprehensive orientation program. Since the visit will be strongly people-oriented, with most of the time spent living with host families, it is important that the members receive information about culture, customs, history, etc.

The major cost of the Japan portion of the trip will be for transportation. Nearly all living expenses within Japan will be paid by the host cities. If the trip will include China, the expenses will be greater, but still less than one would pay on a guided tour package.

Applicants should be adult residents of or employed in Arlington.

Persons interested should call Lori Meltzer at 646-4834.

Annual meeting; new members invited

The sister city organization will have its annual meeting Monday evening, April 8. At that time, members will discuss activities over the past year and plan for the forthcoming year. Any residents of Arlington or people who work in Arlington who are interested in becoming members should call Meltzer at the number above.

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INSIDE ARLINGTON

POLITICS

Confidentiality bill signed into law

A new patient confidentiality bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Jim Marzilli was recently signed into law. The new law protects the confidentiality of patients undergoing treatment for mental-health conditions.

The legislation was filed in response to complaints by patients whose psychiatric information falls in the hands of employers, deliberately or through unprotected company computer files.

The bill was then amended to stop insurance companies from punishing doctors who inform patients of all their rights to treatment, thereby ending the "gag rule."

The new law limits information required of patients and their therapists to patient's name, diagnosis, date and type of care.

Paulsen holds office hours at Fox branch

Representative Anne M. Paulsen will hold office hours in East Arlington on Friday, Feb. 2 from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Fox Library at the corner of Cleveland Street and Massachusetts Ave. Also, in order to be accessible to those who work during the day, Paulsen will also meet with constituents at the Fox Library on Wednesday, Feb. 21 from 7 to 8 p.m.

All East Arlington residents are welcome to come to meet Paulsen, to let her know about concerns they have, or to ask for help with legislation or in dealing with state agencies.

Paulsen can now be reached at a new e-mail address at the State House: Rep.AnnePaulsen@House.state.ma.us.

Marzilli schedules office hours Fridays

Rep. Jim Marzilli holds office hours at the Council on Aging. Office hours will be every first and third Friday of the month: Friday, Feb. 2 and 16, from 9 to 11 a.m. and Friday, March 1 and 15, from 9 to 11 a.m.

Paulsen co-sponsors emergency snow funds bill

Representative Anne Paulsen has recently co-sponsored a bill with local affairs committee chairman Robert A. DeLeo of Winthrop to establish a \$25 million dollar snow removal reserve fund for cities and towns.

"The recent snow storms have left our communities in a serious financial dilemma. With 10 weeks left of winter, many of our cities' and towns' snow removal budgets have been exhausted, and in many cases have run into deficits. During such a crisis, it is crucial for the state to emphasize its commitment and partnership with our local governments in providing for the safety of our residents," stated Paulsen.

Filed this past week, the bill seeks to appropriate \$25 million dollars from the commonwealth's Local Aid fund to be distributed among cities and towns based on a fair and equitable formula to be devised by the Division of Local Services. In 1994, the legislature passed a similar bill appropriating \$15 million in snow and ice removal funds. Paulsen pushed to increase the amount this year by \$10 million, because of the severity of these snow storms occurring so early in the winter season and the uncertainty of the remaining winter months.

Local Republicans endorse Woburn man

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The Lexington Republican Town Committee voted to endorse the candidacy of Amos Eaton for

GOP State Committeeman from the 4th Middlesex at its meeting on Jan. 23.

SCOUT NEWS

Dallin School holds Pinewood Derby

Dallin School Cub Scout Pack 313 recently held its Pinewood Derby at the St. James Church. There were 39 boys who entered their homemade cars. First place went to Paul Chicarello, grade five. Second place went to John Casey, grade two. Third place went to Greg Storch, grade two.

Other entrants included: Joshua Hall, Billy Leva, Josh Montana, John Canniff, Zachary Pattison-Gordon, Brian Biciochi, Paul Cates, Brian McClosky, Michael Paladino, Michael Rodolico, David Jokinen, Michael Jokinen, Marty Fahey, Cameron Rogers, James Sullivan, Evan Javel, Daniel Reedy, Richy Conlon, Stephen MacInnes, Arun Nijhawan, Rishi Nijhawan, Aaron Marks and Philip Rachwal.

Also, Michael Burakoff, Ben Forman, Willie Fowkes, Paul Kremsky, Max Thayer, Derek Keenan, Michael Quinn, Bobby

Worsham, Brian Worsham, Harland Stiritz, Chris Cuffe, Jacob Sherburne and Brendon Costello.

Senior Girl Scout recognition

The Arlington Girl Scout Service Unit announces the 1996 Senior Girl Scout Recognition Award. Each year the service unit recognizes those active Arlington Senior Girl Scouts who will graduate from high school in June.

The recognition is a monetary award given to any registered graduating Arlington Senior Girl Scout who has demonstrated the qualities of outstanding and active scouting for at least the last four years.

To obtain an application, call Nancy Marshall at 862-0031 before Feb. 10. Complete the application and return it to the committee before March 7.

The Senior Girl Scout Recognition will be awarded on Girl Scout Sunday, March 10, at the Pancake Breakfast.



Thompson School Brownie Troop 1007 works with Safety Officer David McKenna.

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ROLL CALL

BEACON HILL ROLL CALL
Volume 23-Report No. 4
Massachusetts House and Senate
Jan. 22-26, 1996

THE HOUSE AND SENATE. Beacon Hill Roll Call records local senators' votes on three roll calls from the week of Jan. 22 through 26. There were no important rolls calls in the House last week.

PUBLIC HOUSING (\$ 2108) — Senate 37-0, approved a bill changing the way public housing residents' household income is calculated for purposes of determining their portion of the rent. Currently, these tenants pay between 25 and 30 percent of the household's gross income for rent. The bill would provide that they pay between 25 and 30 percent of "adjusted gross income" which allows for deductions of earned income taxes, work related expenses and money spent on tuition and fees. Supporters said the bill will lower rents for many people in public housing and also encourage them to further their education.

A Yes vote is for the bill.
Sen. Robert Havern voted yes.

SENIOR CITIZENS (\$ 2108) — Senate 37-0, approved an amendment allowing senior citizens over 62 who live in public housing to work 20 hours per week at the \$4.75 minimum wage without that income counting toward that household's income for purposes of determining their portion of rent. Amendment supporters said the amendment helps seniors by allowing them to earn up to \$380 per month without having to pay a portion of that \$380 in higher rent. They said

the state should not penalize seniors who wish to supplement their income by working.

A Yes vote is for the amendment allowing seniors to earn up to \$380 per month without paying higher rent.

Havern voted yes.

PRISONS (\$ 2157) — Senate 37-0, approved the conference committee version of a \$486 million expansion bill. Provisions include \$398 million for state and county new prison construction and rehabilitation; \$37.6 million for the Department of Youth Services, including \$6 million for the establishment of three 50-bed juvenile boot camps; \$15 million for a program of intermediate sanctions including electronic monitoring bracelets; \$21 million in mitigation funds for communities which are impacted by an inmate increase in the community's state correctional facility; and \$13 million for improvements and maintenance of police stations. Supporters said the package is a major step in expanding the present prison system to help battle the state's crime problem.

A Yes vote is for the prison bill.
Havern voted yes.

Coming Up On Beacon Hill

Title V (\$ 2046) — The Taxation Committee is considering legislation providing up to a \$2,500 tax credit for property owners who are forced to upgrade their septic systems prior to selling their homes if the systems fail to meet the new Title V state regulations. Many homeowners have had to up-



Sen. Havern

Rep. Marzilli

Rep. Paulsen

grade their systems and the bill would offer them a tax credit equal to the cost of the state-mandated upgrade up to \$2,500. Sponsored by Sen. Robert Havern (D-Arlington).

HOTEL ROOMS (\$ 1684) — The Taxation Committee is looking at a bill exempting hotel rooms from the occupancy tax if the room is donated as a fund-raising prize to a nonprofit organization. Sponsored by Senators Jane Swift (R-North Adams), James Jajuga (D-Methuen) and Representatives Mary Jeanette Murray (R-Cohasset), Mary Rogeness (R-

Longmeadow), Mary Jane Simmons (D-Leominster) and Joseph Wagner (D-Chicopee).

SNOW REMOVAL (H 5738) — A bill before the House Ways and Means Committee would provide \$21 million to communities to help defray the costs of snow and ice removal during the past few weeks. The proposal also provides \$34.7 million to the state and \$100,000 to the MDC. Sponsored by Gov. Weld.

HEADLIGHTS (\$ 1231) — The Senate has taken no further action since it gave an initial OK on June 26 to a bill requiring all motor vehicles to

have their headlights on when insufficient light, snow, rain, fog or other conditions make it difficult to clearly see pedestrians or other vehicles at a distance of 500 feet. The proposal also mandates the use of headlights whenever the windshield wipers are used. Sponsored by Senators James Jajuga (D-Methuen) and Linda Melconian (D-Springfield).

ABOLISH SALES TAX (H 5670) — A bill before the Taxation Committee would phase out the five percent sales tax on retail and auto sales over four years. The proposal reduces the tax to four percent in 1997, three percent in 1998, two percent in 1999 and completely abolishes it on January 1, 2000. Sponsored By Representative Frank Cousins (R-Newburyport), Gary Cook (R-Andover) and Linda Teagan (R-Plymouth).

How Long Was This Week's Session?

BEACON HILL ROLL CALL tracks the length of each week's legislative session. During the week of Jan. 22-26, the House met for a total of two hours and five minutes, while the Senate met for a total of one hour and 44 minutes.

Monday, Jan. 22 — HOUSE convened at 11 a.m.; adjourned at

11:17 a.m. SENATE convened at 1:17 p.m.; adjourned at 2:55 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 23 — NO HOUSE SESSION/NO SENATE SESSION
Wednesday, Jan. 24 — HOUSE convened at 1 p.m.; adjourned at 2:43 p.m. NO SENATE SESSION.
Thursday, Jan. 25 — HOUSE convened at 11:05 a.m.; adjourned at 11:10 a.m. SENATE convened at 11 a.m.; convened at 11:06 a.m.
Friday, Jan. 26 — NO HOUSE SESSION/NO SENATE SESSION.

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Persons who wish to comment on the application must submit written comments within twenty (20) days of the filing date or the publication of this notice, whichever is later, to the Department of Public Health, Attention: Program Director, Determination of Need Program, 10 West Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111. The application may be inspected at such address.

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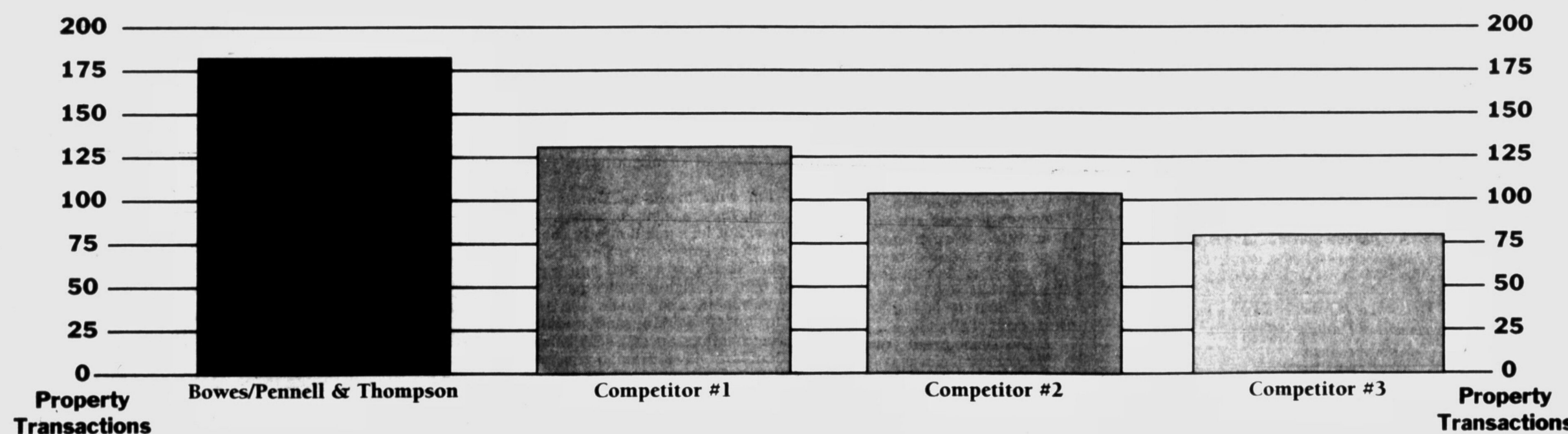
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of "Uncle Sam"Samuel
Wilson

Editorial

Political races

With little more than a week left for taking out nomination papers, election fever is rising in Arlington — to a couple of degrees above freezing. The season started in November with some heat generated by the surprise announcement of an opposition slate for Democratic Town Committee. But prospects of an all-out battle vanished with the withdrawal from the ballot by the incumbent slate.

Perhaps this set the stage for a local election featuring uncontested races. As of Wednesday morning, the only contested race appears to be for the two seats on the Board of Selectmen.

Three School Committee members may be re-elected without any pressing discussions on important school issues.

The lack of interest stretches to all levels. Thirty-nine Town Meeting seats are uncontested. Once again, it appears that Town Meeting members may be elected with a mere write-in vote.

Now is the time for step forward. Anyone who has a genuine interest in the town should seriously consider whether they could do us all a service by becoming involved in its governance.

Hard sell

The task of selling the recent Arlington Business Community Study to town officials and the public is a daunting one.

On Tuesday, the Arlington Redevelopment Board struggled to gain control over the study, which gives few concrete examples of "quick fixes" for Arlington business.

That's the nature of redevelopment — it takes time. This is one of the problems the Board faces: most new plans need some fast results to gain the public's support.

Backing away from a tentative plan to ask Town Meeting for \$300,000 to fund redevelopment of three showcase blocks, the Board instead is looking for ways to make quick, inexpensive changes that would boost the study's stature in the community.

If the Board can accomplish this, it will have demonstrated just the skill that is needed to lure developers to some of Arlington's prime locations.

Guest Column

World wish

By Ariel Lewiton

We all know that Martin Luther King Jr. worked for peace and brotherhood. I was thinking about MLK this month; what he accomplished and what he tried to do, so I wrote this:

Somewhere, deep in another solar system, there is a planet very much like ours. As a matter of fact, its inhabitants look exactly the same as people here, and they speak the same language. They speak one language though, that is native only to their planet, H-Trae. This is Traeisainn, the common language of the planet. No matter where they live, all H-Traelings know the language.

H-Trae is a perfect world, geographically. The water is crystal clear, and many people drink it straight from the source. The air is sparkling clean, and everywhere you go you see lush greenness. Most people there are strictly vegetarian and eat the berries that grow abundantly. There are no stores, for everyone believes in sharing, so there is also no money. Animals and people live in har-

mony.

I imagine a place where people of two different races can stand next to each other without unconsciously thinking "she's white," or "he's black." Imagine a place where violence is unknown to mankind, where a mother will let her child run around outside without fear. A place where people are not afraid of other people because they are a different religion or race.

A place where people stick together through thick and thin, because they can see through all of the minor differences to where we really are very much the same. Imagine all of these things and you have created the H-Trae.

And while the strongest of technology can never find this land of harmony, our hearts can. And someday, they will. After all, what H-Trae but earth spelled backward? Or perhaps it is Earth that is the one spelled the opposite way. And if we only turned around and tried, we too could live in H-Trae, in the Earth that exists in the heart of the unborn child.

Lewiton is a sixth grade student at the Dallin School.



With a crash and din, family takes over cafe

Maybe she came because it was so crummy out. The sky was the gray of an old bruise, the snowbanks glistened as if caramelized, having thawed and been frozen again, having had barrels-ful of sand sprayed on them by passing snowplows. They jutted like dirty cliffs, taller than us all.

She took possession of the place when she entered, her steps slowed by three children under 4. She must have just been trying to get out of the house.

For here they were in the sort of European-style cafe where a hushed and mannerly clientele spends long serene mornings perusing foreign language journals and conversing in low tones — all to the tasteful plinkings of recorded piano, the chilled trillings of classical flute.

"Mommy will put you here," she announced authoritatively to 3-year-old Whimsy, 2-year-old Manson, and newborn Flint as we will call the children. The older two settled with her on chairs at a tipsy square table, while Flint, with a face like a little bat, roosted at their feet in his white plastic canoe. She fetched some soup and a few hard rolls, narrating her every action.

LIFE AND ALL THAT

TERRY MAROTTA



"Mommy will get us some water," she then announced, and rose to do so. In her absence young Flint attempted to rest his rubbery arms on the table-top, misjudged the distance and went down like the Titanic. The crash brought running three waiters, the store manager and Mommy.

There was one of those long sucking silences during which we understood the tike to be drawing breath for a howl like the Wolfman's. When it came, it came and stayed, like an air-raid siren. The

patrons glanced mutely at one another with careful expressionless looks.

At last the sounds subsided, though for a time the child mourned on, bubbling expressively out of his face's many portals.

"Everyone's paying attention to him," observed Whimsy in a small babyish voice, several fingers lodged in her mouth.

It was a teaching moment for Mommy. "That's right," she boomed in a sing-song voice. "Sometimes it's hard to be the big sister. Why? Because the big sister doesn't get as many bumps to bring her attention. But what does the big sister get to do?" (Give bumps, some of us wondered?). "She gets to choose the Good Night Book!"

Then, sure enough: when Mommy got up to fetch more napkins, Big Sister slithered down from her chair, edged close to young Flint and gave him a fierce drubbing on the head, causing the lad to open and close his mouth like a fish. He in turn got down off his chair, went over to little Manson, face squeezed shut in baby-sleep, and rocked his plastic cradle til his head blurred.

When Mommy came back to the table, she took up her loud play-by-

play of the events slowly unspooling before us all.

At this point 2-year-old Flint recovered from his fish impersonation and began stuttering out sounds that to the mother were obvious requests to see a certain video — not later but now.

"Flint wants to watch 'The Lion King'! And will he watch 'The Lion King' now? ... No! He and Whimsy will watch it tonight when Mommy and Daddy go out. And who will come to babysit?" All 25 of us looked at her blankly.

"Jennifer!" she cried joyously. "And can Jennifer read you a story?" (Let's hope so.) "Can Jennifer play with Whimsy and Flint?" (If she's getting paid maybe.) "And can Jennifer feed Manson from her nipples?" (WHAT??)

It was at this point that Mommy rose grandly and began the lengthy procedures that would at last propel her, still lecturing, to the door of the establishment.

Only when they'd stepped outside was the music once again audible. Through the window we all watched, still as expressionless as a field full of cattle, as Whimsy extended one booted foot onto the snowpack, fell and started howling like a banshee.

Letters to the Editor

Election focus should be on local issues

To the editor:

Republican Elizabeth R. Candow's gloating (Letters, Jan. 25) about the division within the town Democratic Party underscores the gracelessness which marks much of our current public discourse.

Leave aside for a moment the stretched credibility of a member of the party led by Newt Gingrich and Bob Dole favoring one Democratic group over another. Ms. Candow's liberals are out-of-date caricatures. More offensively, she derides two people of considerable integrity. Pat Deal and Jim Marzilli. But what her letter is really about is gleefully baiting Democrats of all stripes.

Of the Democratic Town Committee contest, I can say this: Many people with whom I've spoken in town believe the opposition slate challenge was a reckless attempt by one or two of its leadership at self-aggrandizement, at the severe cost of re-opening old wounds which had healed and ensnaring descent, thoughtful Democrats on both sides in an unwanted public clash. But pursuing this point is taking Ms. Candow's bait, isn't it?

It's important to know that there is exceptional opportunity to shape the direction of the local party through the Democratic Town Committee — and that opportunity was not pursued prior to

staging a divisive public challenge to the incumbent committee. As a non-member of committee I was elected to attend the State Democratic issues convention last summer as an Arlington delegate, and a number of openings on that delegation went unfilled for lack of participation.

The Deal slate side-stepped the Lyons' challenge precisely because it wants the focus on the 1996 elections to be on issues that matter, rather than on a diversionary sideshow of infighting and rancor.

I'm with President Clinton in saying the era of big government is over. But let's talk honestly about which aspects of government have worked well as we also find ways to trim and tighten other parts of government and lessen the tax burden on working and middle-class families. Social Security and Medicare have dramatically reduced elderly poverty and illness; our environmental laws have produced noticeably cleaner air and water in a generation's time; the global Cold War debate has yielded democracy the victor, hands-down.

To slash school lunch programs and block an overdue increase in the minimum wage while continuing to pump billions of taxpayer dollars into corporate subsidies and tax cuts for the most wealthy among us, as the Republican leadership in Congress would do, is a harmful prescription truly worthy of vibrant public debate. The up-

coming U.S. Senate contest in November is a crucial venue for that debate.

We should be working overtime together to make Arlington public schools — already quite good — among the best in the state. The upcoming School Committee election in March is a crucial venue for discussing and acting on that imperative.

For those Arlingtonians who care about shaping the direction of our town, state and national governments, let's focus on what's really important in the issues debates leading up to the 1996 elections.

Kevin T. Knobloch
Academy Street

TM member needed for school group

To the editor:

The School Committee has established a Steering Committee to direct a strategic planning process for the Arlington public schools. The purpose of this process is to develop a five-year plan for the schools.

As moderator, I have been invited to appoint one Town Meeting member to this 22-person group. Although the School Committee's decision to initiate this process was taken last October, I was not informed of my role in the process until recently and the formation of the committee is now taking place.

Any Town Meeting member who would like to be considered for this appointment should send a resume and expression of interest to me at 27 Jason St. Those who have previously served on committees or boards should include their attendance record.

The quality of education in our town is important to every citizen regardless of whether he or she is currently a parent of a public school child. Education is not only essential to our children but also has a direct impact upon the value of our homes and the status of our community, so I hope there will be substantial interest in the planning process. Questions about the work of the committee should be directed to Joanne M. Gurry at the School Department.

John L. Worden III
Moderator

Superintendent's decision on course

To the editor:

On Monday, Jan. 22, School Superintendent Kathleen Donovan met with parents of the Brackett School during a meeting of the School Council to discuss plans to handle the crowding situation at the Brackett for the 1996-97 school year. The superintendent listened to comments and answered questions for a lengthy period, assuring

LETTERS, see page 11A.

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the Circumstances of Public Affairs..."*

- BENJAMIN HARRIS

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